

EVENTS, HIKES, PROGRAMS AT LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK

February 2016

azstateparks.com; friendsoflostdutchman.org

Please join us for exciting interpretive ranger and volunteer naturalist guided hikes and family-oriented programs, weather permitting, at Lost Dutchman State Park. Fees for guided hikes and programs are included in the park entry fee of **\$7 per vehicle** or with your annual pass. Reservations are not required unless specified in the program description. 6109 N Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ 480-982-4485.

Wednesday, February 3: Geology, History, Legends and Lore Hike, 9 a.m.

Following the Treasure Loop Trail, volunteer hiking leader Jim will discuss the geology and history, along with legends and lore of the gold in the Superstitions. This 2.5+ mile round trip with an elevation change of approx 520' is a moderate hike. Hikers should wear hiking shoes and carry ample water. Meet at Cholla Day Use.

Friday, February 5: Sky Talk, 7:30 p.m.

Learn about the night sky, constellations and planets with local astronomer Bill Dellinges. Parking and seating at campground amphitheater.

Saturday, February 6: Star Party, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Members of the Superstition Astronomical League will provide telescopic views of heavenly objects and will answer questions about astronomy and astronomical equipment. In short, this is an opportunity to see the moon, planets, stars and other astronomical phenomena using a sophisticated telescope and talk with very knowledgeable and experienced local astronomers! What will be in the sky tonight? Saguaro Day Use.

Wednesday, February 10: Sunset hike, 5:15 p.m.

Following the Treasure Loop trail to Jacobs Cross Cut and the Siphon Draw trail will find hikers marveling at the mountain and the sky full of color, especially when there are a few clouds. A photographer's delight! Elevation change is 102 ft. on very well maintained trails. **Easy**, 2 hour hike. Wear hiking shoes and carry water. Bring a flashlight for return to parking lot. Meet at Saguaro Day Use area. Led by volunteer hiking leader Barbara.

Saturday, February 13: Amazing Night Under the Skies, 7-9 p.m.

Join **Dr. Sky**, a radio/TV journalist based in Phoenix, for **An Amazing Night Under the Skies**. What planets will we see in the dark desert sky? Dress warmly and be prepared to be amazed at the sightings. Palo Verde Day Use (weather permitting).

Wednesday, February 17: Getting to Know the Birds Around You, 9 a.m.

Meet in the Saguaro Day Use area. There will be a brief discussion about how to tell one bird from another, then we'll be looking for resident birds (from hawks to hummingbirds). After birding the Saguaro Day use area, we'll look for birds as we walk up toward Jacob's Crosscut Trail. We'll make the short loop around and back to Saguaro Day Use lot, birding as we go. This is more of an "amble" than a hike as we let the birds come to us. Bring binoculars, water and wear sturdy trail shoes. Led by volunteer Birder Babs. **No dogs, please.**

Friday, and Saturday, February 19 & 20: Moonlight Hike, 7-9 p.m.

There is a limit of 100 hikers per night, so please call in advance to reserve your space: 480 982-4485. Join us for a guided 2.5 mile hike on Jacob's Crosscut Trail at the base of the mysterious Superstition Mountains. Hikers should dress appropriately and wear trail shoes or boots. Please bring a flashlight in case of cloudy conditions. **Some parts of the trail are rocky and uneven with occasional steep grades** (elevation gain: 120'). Participants should be in good health with no walking or night vision difficulties. Trail is NOT suitable for strollers or walkers. After the hike gather round the campfire for a marshmallow roast (marshmallows and sticks provided). All ages welcome. **No pets, please.** Parking in Cholla Day Use Area.

Saturday, February 20: Bird Walk, 8:30 a.m.

Join volunteer "birder Vera" for a morning of discovering the birds of the desert. Learn how to identify the birds in your back yard, the proper use of binoculars, where to find birds in our area; and then take a guided walk through the desert to practice new skills. Bring binoculars if you have them, appropriate clothing, water and enthusiasm, but **no dogs or small children**, please. Expect to have some surprises and fun! Meet at the Native Plant Trail parking area on the right before reaching the ranger station for orientation. Participants will then relocate to Cholla Day Use.

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Saturday, February 20: Geology Hike with ASU Professor Semken, 9 a.m.

Take a walk along the trails in the park with ASU Geology Professor **Steve Semken** and learn more about the formation, foundation and a look into the future of Superstition Mountain. Mr. Semken is an Associate Professor of Geology and Geoscience at ASU and enjoys sharing his knowledge of rocks and what we can learn from them. The easy 2.5 mile, 2 hour walk will take place on maintained trails. Participants should wear hiking shoes and carry water. Directions to trailhead will be given at the Ranger Station on day of hike.

Wednesday, February 24: Exploring Siphon Draw Trail, 9 a.m.

Join us at Siphon Draw Trailhead for a 4.2 round trip hike to the basin (slick rock waterfall area). Along the way we will pass some remnants of an unsuccessful mining attempt, identify strangely named rock formations and look at layers of rock from the volcanic explosion that make up this portion of the Superstition Mountain; all of this while hiking the steady uphill grade on a less than smooth trail. Elevation change - 1030 ft. Wear sturdy trail or hiking shoes, carry at least 2 bottles of water and bring a snack for a 3 hr. moderately strenuous hike. Led by hiking leader Barb.

Saturday, February 27: Liberty Wildlife, 2 p.m.

Members of Liberty Wildlife will be exhibiting birds and desert critters that are "out and about" at this time of year and discussing their habitats. They will also talk about the rescue program at Liberty Wildlife. What will we see and learn today? Meet us at Palo Verde Ramada and please, **NO pets at this visit**.

Saturday, February 27: Ted Newman, 5:30 p.m.

Local musician Ted Newman will entertain with his music and humor that reflects a broad appreciation of Arizona's history, geography and culture. Ted is a prolific singer-songwriter with copyrights on over 400 songs, both vocal and instrumental, which includes the **Shadow of the Dutchman** and **Cowboy Songs and Poems**. Join us around a campfire for an entertaining evening. Bring your chairs and coats to Cholla Ramada.

Please Note: Currently, there are only portable restrooms at day use areas, and no drinking fountains. Tap water is available at day use areas. Additionally, there is no electricity or lights at group ramadas.